

# NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street • Vale, Oregon 97918 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale>

Vale District Office

BLM

News Release  
For Immediate Release  
News Contact: Mark Wilkening, (541) 473-6218

OR-030-2007-027  
September 13, 2007

## BLM Offers \$10,000 Reward

VALE, OREGON – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is offering a \$10,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for starting the Irish Springs Fire.

The Irish Spring Fire started on August 17<sup>th</sup> under suspicious circumstances. Fire investigators and BLM law enforcement conducted an extensive investigation to determine the ignition source. Investigators were able to locate the ignition points and evidence indicates human cause.

Extremely dry drought conditions, throughout eastern Oregon, necessitated that public lands managers throughout eastern Oregon enact Public Use Restrictions in early July and those restrictions were well publicized throughout the region.

“We want to find the responsible person or persons. Their actions caused the destruction of personal property, livestock and natural resources on public lands. The fire threatened homes and ranches, and placed lives at risk within the community. It also endangered the lives of the firefighters who fought to control the resulting wildfire” stated Tracy Skerjanec, acting Fire Management Officer of the Vale District BLM. “The resulting wildfire also cost the taxpayers more than \$6 million dollars to contain. This damage and cost was all because of someone’s careless disregard for the restrictions which were in place.”

If you have any information that might help investigators gain a conviction for this human-caused fire, please contact Lynn Miracle, District Law Enforcement Ranger, Vale District at 541-473-3144.

-BLM-

